

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND (ESF)

Relief for Native Hawaiian Education Programs

OVERVIEW

Native Hawaiian Education Programs may be eligible to access several programs developed in response to the coronavirus pandemic. They include:

- the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund,
- the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund,
- waivers to accept free internet services and equipment, and
- other relief for nonprofits and employers.

More information on these programs is below.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This fund will be awarded to states based on their relative share of ESEA grants for fiscal year (FY) 2019. At least 90 percent of the funds must be awarded as subgrants to local education agencies (including charter schools) in proportion to the amount received under ESEA in FY 2019. Hawaii’s state educational agency, the Hawaii Department of Education, functions as the local educational agency for the state. States may not reserve more than 0.5 percent for administrative costs. It will take, at most, two months for states to receive funds.

Allocation to Hawaii

Hawaii will receive an estimated **\$43,385,229**. The Hawaii Department of Education must apply for the funds. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued applications, and state education agencies have until July 1, 2020 to apply by submitting a simple signed Certification and Agreement form to ESSERF@ed.gov. The form can be found [here](#). ED intends to process applications within three business days of receipt.

More information on the fund can be found [here](#). The allocation for Hawaii can be found in Table 1 and [here](#).

Table 1: Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Allocation to Hawaii

	Total allocation	Minimum local education agency distribution	Maximum state education agency reservation	Maximum state education agency administration
Hawaii	\$43,385,229	\$39,046,706	\$4,338,523	\$216,926

Use of Funds

A local education agency may use funds for any activity authorized under ESEA, including to:

- Coordinate preparedness and response efforts;
- Provide principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools;

- Address the needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- Purchase educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students, including low-income students and students with disabilities;
- Provide mental health services and supports;
- Plan and implement activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs, including online instruction; and
- Maintain the continuity of services in local education agencies and continue to employ existing staff.

Native Hawaiian Education Programs

The CARES Act specifically states that a local education agency may use emergency funds for: *“Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act.”*¹

Activities authorized under the Native Hawaiian Education Act include:

- Early education and care programs;
- Family-based education centers;
- Reading and literacy programs;
- Activities to address the needs of gifted and talented Native Hawaiian students;
- Special education programs;
- Professional development for educators; and
- Programs to prepare and support Native Hawaiian students through postsecondary education.

Eligible Native Hawaiian Education Program entities include:

- Native Hawaiian educational organizations;
- Native Hawaiian community-based organizations;
- Public and private nonprofit organizations, agencies, and institutions with experience in developing or operating Native Hawaiian programs or programs of instruction in the Native Hawaiian language; and
- Native Hawaiian charter schools.

Other Allowable Use Programs

The CARES Act also specifies that funding may be used for the following: the Alaska Native Educational Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Perkins CTE Act, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY EDUCATION FUND RELIEF SUMMARY

This fund provides governors the flexibility to direct support towards the schools and students most severely impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.

Allocation to Hawaii

¹ Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, S.3548, 116th Cong. (2020).

Hawaii will receive **\$9,993,387**. The governor must apply for the funds. The application can be found on ED's website [here](#). The U.S. Department of Education will approve or deny an application within 30 days of receiving a governor's application. Funds unawarded by the governor must be returned within one year of receiving the funds. Additional information about the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund can be found [here](#).

Use of Funds

A governor may use the funds to:

- Provide grants to local education agencies most impacted by coronavirus to support the on-going functionality of the local education agency;
- Provide grants to institutions of higher education the governor determines to be the most impacted by coronavirus; and
- Provide support to any other higher education institution, local education agency, or education related entity the governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services, the provision of child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

BROADBAND WAIVER OF GIFT RULES

On March 18, the Federal Communications Commission waived the gift rules for the Universal Service Fund E-Rate and Rural Health Care programs until September 20, 2020. This means services providers can donate equipment, such as Wi-Fi hotspots, or offer free service upgrades to schools and libraries that receive E-Rate subsidies.

Additional information about the waiver of the gift rules can be found here:

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-support-telehealth-remote-learning-during-coronavirus>

OTHER RESOURCES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

Financial Relief for Nonprofits: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/small-businesses>

Employers Guide to Emergency Paid Leave: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/paid-leave-employers>